

**Program Summary  
Department of Public Safety  
Scientific Analysis (Crime Labs)**

**Program Overview**

Administered by the Department of Public Safety (DPS), the state's Scientific Analysis (Crime Laboratory System) Program aims "to assist the Department, Arizona Criminal Justice Community, and the public in the timely investigation and adjudication of criminal cases by utilizing state-of-the-art analytical techniques; providing the most accurate scientific analysis of evidence; and presenting expert court testimony."

DPS crime labs provide: scientific analysis of evidence, crime scene assistance, secure storage of evidence, training, and expert testimony to all criminal justice agencies in the state at no charge. DPS scientific and technical analysis services and their respective percentage of total cases in FY 2005 are provided in the following areas:

- Toxicology analysis (43.1%)
- Controlled substance analysis (36.1%)
- Latent print examinations (10.2%)
- Biology and serology analysis (4.9%)
- DNA profiling and Short Tandem Repeats Processes (2.6%)
- Trace evidence analysis (2.6%)
- Questioned document examinations (0.4%)

Currently, DPS operates and maintains 4 crime labs throughout the state including: the Central Regional Crime Lab, the Southern Regional Crime Lab, the Northern Regional Crime and the Western Regional Crime Lab. Services provided at each of the 4 crime labs vary due to size and available resources, however, each region has access to services offered by the 3 other crime labs in the state. In total, there are approximately 295 different agencies receiving the services provided by DPS' crime labs. These agencies and their percentage of all agencies served are grouped into the following categories:

- Municipalities (43.1%)
- Counties (18.6%)
- Federal and Native American (18.0%)
- State (14.2%)
- Task Forces (6.1%)

DPS' crime labs received accreditation in 1982 by the American Society of Crime Laboratory Directors Laboratory Accreditation Board (ASCLD/LAB) and have since maintained that status through the society's reaccreditation process. This accreditation

was achieved by maintaining the standards set forth by ASCLD/LAB in the following areas:

- Laboratory Management
- Scientific Achievement and Instrumentation
- Personnel Qualifications/Scientific Expertise
- Laboratory Facilities

In addition to DPS' 4 accredited crime labs, Phoenix, Mesa, Tucson and Scottsdale also operate accredited crime labs.

**Program Funding**

The Scientific Analysis Program receives funding from 7 appropriated funding sources and 5 non-appropriated funds. The appropriated funding sources include the General Fund (GF), State Highway Fund (SHF), Crime Lab Assessment Fund (CLAF), DNA Fund (DNA), Highway User Revenue Fund (HURF), Highway Patrol Fund (HPF) and the Criminal Justice Enhancement Fund (CJEF).

Since FY 2000, total funding for the program has increased 68.2%. In FY 2006, the programs appropriated expenditures are estimated to be \$12,834,300, a 74.2% increase over FY 2000 levels and an 8.9% increase above FY 2005 levels. *Table 1* below includes actual FY 2000 expenditures and estimated FY 2005 and FY 2006 expenditures by appropriated funding sources.

**Table 1**

<b>Scientific Analysis Program Funding</b>			
<b><u>Fund Source</u></b>	<b><u>FY 2000</u></b>	<b><u>FY 2005</u></b>	<b><u>FY 2006</u></b>
GF	\$2,455,400	\$1,027,500	\$1,027,500
SHF	-	1,170,000	1,170,000
CLAF	3,950,500	3,952,000	4,350,900
DNA	411,900	2,550,700	2,550,700
HURF	-	1,170,000	1,657,100
HPF	3,100	-	-
CJEF	<u>548,300</u>	<u>1,913,500</u>	<u>2,078,100</u>
Total-Appropriated	\$7,369,200	\$11,783,700	\$12,834,300
Non-Appropriated	<u>1,060,400</u>	<u>6,491,000</u>	<u>6,491,000</u>
<b>Total- All Sources</b>	<b>\$8,429,600</b>	<b>\$18,274,700</b>	<b>\$19,325,300</b>

*Crime Lab Assessment Fund*

Per A.R.S. § 41-2401, the CLAF receives 2.3% of the revenues deposited into the Criminal Justice Enhancement Fund (which receives its monies from a surcharge on court-ordered fines). A.R.S. § 41-2415 requires CLAF monies be distributed to 5 law

enforcement agencies in the following fashion: DPS - 55%, Phoenix Police Department - 22%, Tucson Police Department - 12%, Mesa Police Department - 7%, and the Scottsdale Police Department - 4%. These distributions were determined by the percentage of population that each of the departments serves. Based on FY 2005 population estimates completed by the Department of Economic Security, these percentages would total 55.3%, 24.3%, 8.9%, 7.7% and 3.8% respectively, consistent with the distribution currently established in statute. The 55% figure distributed to DPS represents approximately \$460,000, however, in FY 2006, the CLAF appropriation totals \$4,350,900 (33.9% of the program's budget). The remaining \$3,890,900, is a result of an additional 9% of CJEF revenues that are redirected from the General Fund to DPS' crime lab in FY 2006 pursuant to Laws 2005, Chapter 300 (the Criminal Justice Budget Reconciliation Bill.)

#### *Caseload and Staffing*

In recent years, the department has experienced a significant increase in the number of cases submitted for analysis. *Table 2* indicates the number of cases submitted for analysis by regional crime lab for fiscal years 2000, 2004 and 2005. From FY 2000 to FY 2005, total submissions have grown from 29,425 to 45,916, an increase of 56.0%. From FY 2004 to FY 2005, the department experienced a 9.0% increase in submissions, consistent with the average annual increase of 9.31% the program has experienced since FY 2000.

The majority of growth the department has experienced is due to a 261.9% increase in cases submitted to the Southern Regional Crime Lab. This increase translates into an average annual increase of 29.33%.

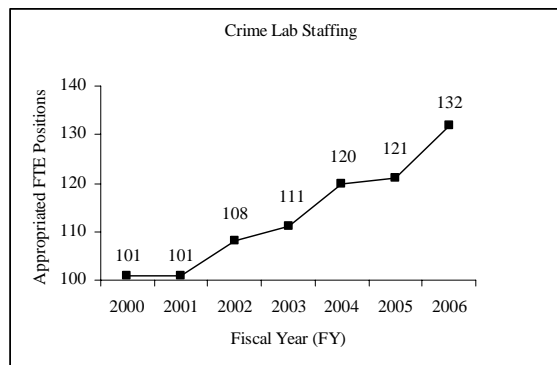
**Table 2**

#### **Scientific Analysis Case Submissions**

<u>Fund Source</u>	<u>FY 2000</u>	<u>FY 2004</u>	<u>FY 2005</u>
Central Crime Lab	20,243	22,724	24,456
Southern Crime Lab	3,461	10,436	12,525
Northern Crime Lab	3,760	4,851	5,279
Western Crime Lab	<u>1,961</u>	<u>4,115</u>	<u>3,656</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>29,425</b>	<b>42,126</b>	<b>45,916</b>

From FY 2000 to FY 2006, the number of appropriated positions allocated to the crime lab has increased by 31 positions (or 30.7%). In FY 2006, DPS was appropriated \$1,050,600 to fund an additional 11 FTE Positions to address the growth in crime lab cases submitted to the department. In FY 2005, DPS accepted the responsibility of Blood Alcohol Regulation from the Department of Health Services. This transfer resulted in 1 additional

position to the DPS crime lab system. In addition, in FY 2004, 9 additional positions were added due to the establishment of a convicted felons DNA program. When excluding additional positions appropriated to address new programs, the department received an additional 21 positions (a 20.8% increase over FY 2000 levels), to address the growth in cases submitted for analysis. The chart titled, *Crime Lab Staffing*, indicates the program's total number of appropriated positions since FY 2000.



#### **Performance Measures**

*Table 3* includes the performance measures DPS maintains to assess the Scientific Analysis Program. These figures reflect the performance of the entire program rather than the performance of each individual crime lab.

The FY 2006 General Appropriation Act only includes 1 measure titled "Percent of crime lab cases over 30 days old." In FY 2004, 6.3% of cases submitted to DPS crime lab system were in excess of 30 days old. This translates into approximately 2,655 cases based on 42,146 actual cases submitted in FY 2004. However, this amount doesn't include cases not processed in prior year(s). While knowing the quantity or percentage of cases in excess of 30 days old is helpful, it doesn't correspond to deficiencies within the program, given the time to complete the examination varies substantially depending on the type of analysis being done (toxicology, controlled substance, latent print, biology and serology, DNA profiling and STRs, trace evidence and questioned document). As a result, it would be useful to track case backlogs by the type of case as well as the average time to complete each type of case. This information would address issues related to staffing and caseloads as well as where existing and additional resources would be most efficiently utilized.

**Table 3****DPS Scientific Analysis Performance Measures**

<b><u>Performance Measure</u></b>	<b><u>FY 2004 Actual</u></b>	<b><u>FY 2006 Estimate</u></b>
Scientific analysis cases	42,146	51,928
Percent number of crime lab cases over 30 days old	6.3	2.5
Number of additional positions	3	56
Percent of obsolete scientific equipment replaced	21.7	20
Percent of \$14 million construction cost available	0	50
Crime cases submitted for analysis	42,146	51,928
Percent of cases generating automated laboratory examination reports to officers and/or county attorneys	0	100
Evidence disposals completed per month per regional evidence room	3	3
Efficiency review ideas received	2	3
Efficiency review ideas considered for implementation	2	3
Percent of scientific analysis employees receiving 1 training session	100	100
Percent of scientific analysis employees receiving 2 training sessions	49	67
Presentations given per regional crime laboratory	8	8